

Capital Journal HOME PAGE

Plant Breeding Fascinating Activity; Creates Interest

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Every amateur gardener should at some time try his hand at plant breeding. It affords an outlet for the creative instinct and increases the interest and joys of gardening as a hobby.

The basic principles of plant breeding are quite simple. Breeding is usually concerned with the adding of the predominant characteristics of one plant to another which does not have such characteristics. Obviously we cannot cross mice with elephants, and neither can we cross violas with zinnias. The two plants to be used as parents must belong to the same plant family so that there is no inherent bar to the fertilization and production of seeds. Suppose we have a rose, as an example, of many good qualities which we want to duplicate in another color. The pollen of the first plant is taken and preserved until needed by placing it in a gelatin capsule which is sealed in a test tube containing calcium chloride. When the second parent plant comes into bloom the flowers are protected from contamination by bees and other insects until its stigma becomes sticky, when the pollen that has been saved is placed upon it. It is then again protected by tying a paper or glassine sack over it so that there will be no possible contamination. When these blooms then ripen seeds, they are sown and as they mature and flower we can notice the effect of our cross, patience needed.

Sometimes the first generation of seedlings is practically worthless, no noticeable improvement being made. However, by selecting the best of these the breeder should attempt to self-fertilize it. Then the new seed may be planted and grown on to bloom. A large number of self-crosses may be needed to achieve desired results, but patience may bring about an entirely new or unusual variety.

Nature occasionally makes such crosses itself, and thus we have such a wide range of wild plant forms and colors. Plants in herit characteristics from their parents, even as do human beings. The inheritance may be color, form of flower, time of bloom or period of bloom, length and strength of the

stems, character of the foliage and habit of growth. All or any of these characteristics can be imparted to a plant if they are successfully mated. But it usually takes a minimum of two generations to accomplish this.

Professional plant breeders have given us many beautiful flowers and the amateur has even contributed his share. At least it is a very interesting experiment but one should study the laws of plant genetics before seriously embarking on the program. There are a number of excellent books on the subject.

E. C. Doan, a local garden enthusiast, reports that he raised a seedling from a Peace rose that apparently self-fertilized. The seedling bloomed this year as a single rose with all of the other characteristics of the rose Peace. He reports he intends to grow it on into another generation to develop certain latent characteristics. Thus one of our local gardeners has enjoyed the thrill of creating something new. What the future developments may bring Doan would not hazard a guess other than to say that he was hopeful of the results.

Coming Events

- Aug. 26-28—Marion county and City of Salem fall show, State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Aug. 26-29—Clackamas County Fair, Canby.
- Aug. 28-30—Marion county 4-H Livestock Auction, State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Aug. 28-30—Polk County Fair, Rickreall.
- Sept. 5-12—Oregon State Pa. Salem.
- Sept. 11—Oregon Turkey Improvement Association annual meeting, Withycombe hall, Corvallis.
- Sept. 21—Your Opportunity Jersey Sale, State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Sept. 24-28—North Marion County Fair, Woodburn.
- Sept. 26—Baptist Harvest Festival, Santiam Valley Grange, Levine.
- Oct. 1-1953—Oregon Leadership Institute for men and country churches, Oregon State hall.
- Oct. 20-24—Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Union Stockyards, Portland.
- Oct. 21-23—4-H section, Pacific International Livestock Exposition.

LEGAL

NOTICE OF BOND SALE

Sealed bids will be received by the undersigned until the hour of 7:30 o'clock p.m. on September 14, 1953, and immediately thereafter opened by the Common Council of the City of Salem, Oregon, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, for the sale of City of Salem Improvement Bonds, in the amount of Twenty-eight Thousand, Twenty-seven Dollars and Fifty-seven Cents (28,277.57), issued pursuant to the laws of the State of Oregon and Ordinance No. 4356 of the City of Salem, and described as follows:

City of Salem Improvement Bonds, Issue 1953-B, being bonds issued pursuant to the Bonded Building Act, in denominations of \$1,000 each, except one bond number one which shall be for the sum of \$275, said bonds to be dated September 1, 1953, and to mature in annual installments as follows:

September 1, 1954.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1955.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1956.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1957.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1958.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1959.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1960.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1961.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1962.....\$2,275.57
September 1, 1963.....\$2,275.57

Each bidder should name the rate and rate of interest at which the bidder is willing to accept the bonds. The bonds will bear the rate or rates of interest, not exceeding three and one-half per cent per annum, designated in the bid accepted. Said bonds will be sold for not less than par value and accepted interest.

Each bid, except bids submitted by the State of Oregon, or any sinking fund of the City of Salem, must be accompanied by a certified check for two per cent of the par value of the bonds, made payable to the City as a guarantee of good faith. Bids submitted by mail should be addressed to the undersigned at the City Hall in Salem, Oregon.

The bonds will be delivered complete without undue delay at the expense of the City of Salem at either Salem, Oregon, or Portland, Oregon, as the successful bidder may designate.

Each bidder is requested to include in his bid a statement of the total interest cost and effective interest rate of the issue based upon the accurate interest cost that the City will pay upon the issue provided his bid for the issue is accepted and none of the bonds of the issue are called for payment prior to final maturity date.

The bids to be received by the Common Council to accept any bid or to reject all bids in the interest of the City.

The prior local approved opinion of Messrs. Winters, McCulloch, Shuler & Sayre will be furnished the successful bidder.

ALFRED MUNDT,
City Recorder
Salem, Oregon
Aug. 19, 26, 1953

Garden Center Held Need Here

By MARK M. TAYLOR

A few years ago an association of all of the various garden clubs in Salem and vicinity was formed for the first purpose of establishing a garden center. Little progress has been made towards that goal, unfortunately, probably due to the lack of familiarity with what constitutes such a garden center, even by members of the garden groups.

Gardening is truly a universal hobby for everyone who owns a home is a gardener at heart. Some others seek out advanced information on specialized interests. A Garden Center is a place where horticultural information and activities are available to everyone in the community. You don't even have to be a garden club member to benefit by it. There is no social barrier connected with the operation of such a center.

Library, Lectures

Our community needs a Garden Center and as it grows from a small start a full-time director may need to be appointed to coordinate its activities. Some of which include: 1. A library of books and magazines on horticultural subjects and a lending library, if necessary.

2. Conduct lectures on horticultural subjects, landscaping, etc.;
3. Maintain lists of qualified speakers on different subjects for use by various clubs and also a list of accredited judges for exhibitions of all types;
4. Have a plant identification service;
5. Conduct horticultural exhibits;
6. Conduct demonstrations of gardening practices such as planting, pruning, etc.;
7. Give practical recommendations on pest control for the locality.

Some large cities have done outstanding work in this field, the Garden Center at Cleveland, Ohio, being a notable example with its own beautiful setting on a lakefront. Jacksonville, Florida is another outstanding example with its own building valued at over \$35,000. Started in a room in a downtown department store and expanding to its own building and grounds entirely free of debt is a challenge to other communities to do likewise.

Ft. Pierce, Florida, a city considerably smaller than Salem and serving a smaller population area created a Garden Center that is a model for others. Through a subsidy of the City for \$1000 and an assessment for each garden club in the "council," funds for which were raised by taxing members, by sales, entertainments and so on, a sufficient fund was raised to guarantee construction of a building and the purchase of a site. Now, Ft. Pierce has a semi-rustic building 30x40 feet interior with kitchen, rest rooms and storerooms. The grounds were landscaped by garden clubbers who contributed their labor and materials. Much of the material and labor used in the building itself

Questions Answered

BY MARK M. TAYLOR

Q.—How should one care for peonies this time of year? Should they be kept watered or allowed to dry up and die down?—Mrs. A. J. Jr.

ANS.—Either way has favor with some growers. Personally, I like to see the foliage kept green and attractive. As Fall approaches it will turn a nice Fall color, too. Then, hold the water and cut the foliage below the soil line, burning all refuse. By watering late you continue root growth and development of next season's eyes in the root stocks.

Q.—Planted peonies last Fall exactly two inches below soil surface. They grew with full foliage but no blooms, why is this and what to do?—Mrs. E. H.

ANS.—It may be that they were planted in too shady a spot or that the soil was not properly enriched. Apply a half pound of superphosphate well worked into the soil for a square yard around the plant. Do not disturb the roots, though. This may be caused by root nematode (knobby galls on the roots) which can be prevented by sterilizing the soil with DD before planting. Follow instructions on the container.

Q.—When is the best time to move shrubs?—Mrs. A. W.

ANS.—September is a good time to do this as the soil is still warm and Fall rains will help shrubs take hold.

Q.—We have a tree with rather exotic shape that I would like to accent in my garden. How would you do this?—Mrs. L. T.

ANS.—Night lighting brings out the unusual branching or foliage of trees. Try placing a flood lamp below and to the rear of the tree to be viewed.

was donated by civic minded groups and individuals. The site of the Garden Center is in one of the city's parks, so the Parks Department maintains the grounds.

Centers Listed

There are more than 200 Garden Centers in cities throughout the country with the big majority located in cities much smaller than Salem. So, what can be done elsewhere can be done here. It should be done, for the reason that more and more persons unfamiliar with gardening, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, are building homes here and need sound encouragement and advice.

The Salem Garden Council's original aim was a most commendable one and I hope it has not been forgotten in favor of other more spectacular activities that offer themselves occasionally. They should not be diverted from their goal, but should strive all the harder to accomplish it in view of the ever increasing population in this area and the number of new "home gardeners" that could and would find a Garden Center service most valuable. By doing so we build a happier, more attractive Salem!

thus you will find it picks up the branch and trunk shapes as well as the lighter coloring of new growth. In fact, the pale green leaves of new growth picks up the light so that they appear to be flower-like. Such lighting makes your outdoor living room more enjoyable and more livable.

Q.—What is the right time to divide iris and how is this best done?—Mrs. M. A.

ANS.—Divide after flowering. Take up clumps, cut them apart so that each division has a fan (set of leaves. Replant by placing rhizomes just below the surface of the soil (do not plant deeply).

Q.—Glovinias are through blooming. What care do I give them now?—Mrs. H. L.

ANS.—Withhold water until leaves have matured then lift from pot, removing soil from the tuber. Store tuber in sand, peat moss or vermiculite until Spring when you can re-pot and start the process all over again.

Q.—What perennial flowers and shrubs bloom in October?—Mrs. W. K.

ANS.—Phlox, dahlias, chrysanthemums, Michaelmas Daisies, scabiosa, anemones, Fall crocus, calla lilies, barberry, roses, fuchsias and begonias—are some of the flowers that bloom in October.

Q.—I have some porch and window boxes that I would like to plant for Spring bloom. What would you recommend?—E. A.

ANS.—Tulips, hyacinths and daffodils would be good for window box planting for Spring bloom. These will give a good show of color and afford some cut flowers, too.

Q.—When is the proper time to pick pears? I have always understood that tree-ripened fruit is larger, sweeter and juicier. Recently I have heard that pears are picked green.—Mrs. D. F.

ANS.—Ordinarily tree-ripened fruit is superior but with pears this does not hold true. Pick pears when they break from the stem on being lifted. They will still be too green to eat immediately so wrap them in paper and store in a cool, dark place. Check periodically to note the state of ripeness. Good winter varieties will thus give you fruit over a long period of time.

Q.—Is it possible to move a Catalpa tree with an 18-inch diameter trunk?—B. S.

ANS.—This is possible, yes. However, this should be done by professionals that have the equipment and know just how—else you may lose a beautiful tree. Why not plant a new one on the site you have selected? Catalpa is a fairly rapid grower so you will be better off in the long run at a considerable financial saving.

Q.—Are elderberries grown commercially in Oregon?—R. G.

ANS.—Not to my knowledge. The Blueberry Elder is native to Oregon and is found abundantly in Tillamook County. It

Lath Houses Aid Gardener

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Lath houses are becoming more and more a popular garden structure even for the average home gardener. Originally lath houses were devised to provide a means of breaking up the sun's rays so that a partial shade was provided for such plants as tuberosus begonias and various half-hardy plant materials. Today it is realized that such lath shelters not only tend to modify the searing rays of a hot summer sun but also modify the coolness of Fall and the cold of Winter. Tests have shown temperatures in lath houses to be 2 to 4 degrees cooler in Summer and 2 to 4 degrees warmer in Winter.

Perhaps no place in the country has the lath house become an accepted part of the home garden as it has in California where the primary utilitarian purpose has been combined with good architectural design, even so that an outdoor living room or patio is placed in a part of the lath house. Lath houses make a most acceptable place for the starting of seeds or cuttings. Within its shelter you can grow tuberous begonias, cinerarias, fuchsias, ferns and lilies—to mention a few possibilities. The arrangement of the plants in the lathhouse will contribute much to its attractiveness. Hanging baskets of begonias, fuchsias and other plants of trailing habit can be suspended from the rafters, too. Pot plants can be started in the lathhouse before bringing indoors for forcing.

We may not all be able to afford a home greenhouse, but an intermediate in the form of a lathhouse holds excellent possibilities for practically any home. An attached garden equipment storage room is most desirable where tools, fertilizers, pots, stakes, labels, etc. may be stored when not in use. Lathhouses are of year-round utility as some plants may be started there at most any time of the year.

has yellowish white small flowers in large flat clusters to 7 inches across. The berries are blue-black and are considered by many as choice for jellies, preserves and wines. I recall having eaten pies made from these elderberries that were excellent. The flowers appear in late June with berries in late Summer. This is a vigorous shrub or tree and may reach a height of 45 feet under ideal conditions. I have seen these grow in abundance along the creeks in Eastern Oregon, as well.

Garden Notebook

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Do You Know?

That some perennials, like oriental poppies, statice, anemones and bleeding heart will grow new plants from short sections of roots planted in sand and well-matured.

Lilies must be planted in well-drained locations? Tomatoes ripened in the sun have a more delicious flavor?

A walled garden, the style of old European gardens, can be made attractive and enjoyable today? An ancient name for garden was "Paradise"?

Geraniums are often planted in rose gardens to ward off the Japanese Beetle?

That there are grasses grown for their ornamental value or for use in dried arrangements and winter bouquets?

The lily virus has been controlled with streptomycin? Autumn daffodils are not daffodils but are Sterbergia

Lutea? Lindane, chlordane or DDT will control the Andromeda Lace Bug?

When planting lawn grass mixtures containing Kentucky Blue Grass, you should lime your soil before planting? Small pieces of charcoal added to a potting mixture helps prevent souring of the soil due to inadequate drainage?

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A Weedless Lawn
It won't be long now until we'll be thinking of harvesting the rest of the garden crops. Guess I'll get out today while the lawn is still nice and green and get rid of some more of that Japanese Clover and Chickweed.

I have the Dandelions under control since I started using Improved LAWN HORMOTOX last spring. You really should have seen them turn up their toes!

Now if I can just be ambitious enough to get out the sprayer and the LAWN HORMOTOX and give that Japanese Clover, Chickweed and that other vine, which my neighbors tell me is Speedwell, a thorough coverage a couple or so times this fall, I'm going to be pretty close to having a weedless lawn.

Jim, down at the seed store, was telling me that if I kept up the good work of applying LAWN HORMOTOX regularly this season, next year I'd have an easy job to keep weeds down. But really what I'm most happy about is that my neighbors have been keeping right up with me so that we won't have seeds blowing into each other's yards.

I always get my supply of Miller's Improved LAWN HORMOTOX at

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